



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,910	11/07/2001	Mark Maggenti	000211D6	8063

23696 7590 08/25/2004

Qualcomm Incorporated  
Patents Department  
5775 Morehouse Drive  
San Diego, CA 92121-1714

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, THUAN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2685

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/004,910

Applicant(s)

MAGGENTI ET AL.

Examiner

THUAN T. NGUYEN

Art Unit

2685

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

Art Unit: 2685

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.*

3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sigler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,830/ or "Sigler" hereinafter) in view of Kent (US Patent 5,650,995).

Regarding claim 1, Sigler discloses an exact system and method for a push-to-talk communication device to participate in a group communication net over a distributed network (Figs 1 & 9 for including other networks such as PSTN, MTS, private networks even to LAN and WAN networks including the Internet with IP or TCP/IP of the Internet are addressed in col. 1/lines 14-20 for satellite communication network, col. 3/line 64 to col. 4/line 11 for LAN/WAN, col. 13/lines 38-43 for mobile network, and in the Glossary, col. 44 & 49 for IP and TCP/IP). Within this communication system, Sigler discloses a system and its corresponding technique for entering a net within a group communication network, with a request a current list for joining the group as the user can

Art Unit: 2685

choose which group to join by selecting net ID and the technique on how to register with that group (col. 9/lines 8-44).

Applicants argue that Sigler does not teach or suggest the step of “receiving a response from the controller that the communication device has been added to the list of available nets that the communication device may join” to a particular net or talk group; however, Kent teaches a same technique for offering a controller within a talk group for controlling the adding of communication device to join a particular talk group (see Figs. 5, 6A & 6B, and col. 9/line 35 to col. 10/line 33 for a controller; and col. 12/line 49 to col. 13/line 24 & col. 16/line 60 to col. 17/line 21 for adding the communication device to the list of available nets or talkgroups). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sigler’s system with disclosed technique of Kent in order to easily controlling the adding and assigning communication devices by adding them to the list of available nets or talkgroups among talk groups for flexibility communication among users as taught by Kent.

Furthermore, as for claims 2-6, Sigler further provides a method for registering and re-registering the users within the net by determining whether the user would like to join as participants in a net within a group communication network or not, for instance, allowing or unregistering the user to engage in the group communication, by sending a message to a communication device for determining whether the communication wishes to stay a participant in the net and listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the communication device responses or sends a response within a predetermined time period (col. 17/line 38 to col. 18/line 36 for the user engages in the net communication group or deactivating from it; and col. 22/line 50 to col. 23/line 44 for

Art Unit: 2685

call monitoring whether a communication device is active or not within a net communication group); including of a dormant mode, wherein the group communication net is capable of offering, as a user is being detected for inactive for a period of time and a technique for reactivate the standby mode or dormant mode as with the user's activation prompting the controller to activate the group communication net (col. 30/line 54 to col. 32/line 25 for standby modes); and wherein the group communication system including a (group) controller to manage the group communication net and interfacing with push-to-talk communication device (col. 10/lines 10-24 & col. 17/line 25 to col. 18/line 8), including the method of handling or processing packet data with a transmitter and receiver to send and receive packet data (col. 35/lines 20-24 as user routes messages using Mobile Packet Data Service), further including a user activated mechanism for user to activate the transmitter or the push-to-talk communication device for transmitting the mentioned packet data (PTT button is used for activating the push-to-talk communication, col. 19/line 40 to col. 20/line 7) as well as the communication device is wireless (Fig. 1, and col. 16/line 61 to col. 17/line 7 for mobile users addressed), including a memory within the wireless device (for storing ID into a memory, in col. 21/lines 8-15), and a database for storing packet data for until the controller is ready to receive the packet data (Fig. 3 for a data hub in handling MET user packet switched); a controller as NOC oversees the operation of the system in managing and controlling system resources regarding the group communication net (Figs. 3-4, 8-9, and col. 3/line 64 to col. 4/line 3) further including a priority service (col. 20/lines 8-15) such that the priority is dynamically configurable in a manner that an interruption can occur for users with more priority requests (col. 9/lines 45-64 & col. 36/lines 44-67 for priority and

Art Unit: 2685

dynamic features) and a secure mode (col. 26/line 54 to col. 28/line 55 for encryption and techniques for ensuring anti-fraud acts and securing technique with encryption algorithm); the communication device further including identification information, as well as a cellular ESN for identifying each mobile user by identification updates or matching that ESN to home cellular carrier (col. 34/lines 33-37), and updated information can be done or changed with new information (col. 20/lines 23-34 & Fig. 9 for mobile users in different nets).

As for claims 7-14, these claims for a computer readable product and a communication device applied the method as claiming in earlier claims 1-6 are rejected for the reasons given in the scope of claims 1-6 as discussed above.

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Sasuta et al (US Patent 5,491,835), Shaughnessy et al (US Patent 5,689,810), and Kaye (US Patent 5,694,393) disclose systems related to push-to-talk devices and assignments of devices within talkgroups.

5. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**


**(703) 872-9306, (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

*Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II,  
2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).*

Art Unit: 2685

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Thuan Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-5860. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM, with alternate Fridays off.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-0377**.



**TONY T. NGUYEN**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**

Tony T. Nguyen  
Art Unit 2685  
August 19, 2004